

**DAIL Advisory Meeting  
Comfort Inn, Berlin Vermont  
April 11, 2013**

**Attendees:**

Board Members: Jim Coutts, Beth Stern, Nancy Brieden, Diane Novak, Harriet Goodwin, Steve Pouliot, Bill Ashe, Max Barrows, Robert Borden, Susan Gordon, Linda Berger, Peter Cobb. Phone: Sarah Launderville, and John Pierce

Guests: Jackie Majoros, Marlys Waller, Rich Atkinson, Sheila Burnham

State Employees: Linda Martinez, Rio Demers, Leah Ziegler, Mary Woodruff, Camille George, Susan Wehry, Janet Merrill

The meeting started at 10:10 as the previous months minutes were not available for review. Susan Gordon mentioned to everyone the Alzheimer's Association Gala will be on April 30<sup>th</sup> and there are two tickets available to the Advisory Board. One was accepted by a member and if anyone else is able to attend they will let Lisa know by the end of the meeting.

**I. Money Follows the Person Project: Adult Family Care Homes**

Linda Martinez, Director of the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program presented a new home and community based service option called Adult Family Care Homes (AFC). This option will be incorporated into the options available to people participating in the Choices for Care Program. Please refer to the power point presentation that was reviewed for additional information about AFC.

Adult Family Care Homes are private homes that will provide care for up to two individuals. To date, MFP has identified people in nursing homes that have requested to leave but have no place to go. Currently there are 40 people on a list considering this option. Adult Family Care Home arrangements will be approved by the State of Vermont. The power point presentation and additional *Questions & Answers* document included with these minutes provide additional information about MFP's work to develop Adult Family Homes.

**II. Senior Centers in the Western U.S.**

DAIL Advisory Board member Jim Coutts shared photos and spoke about his trip out West where he visited several senior centers in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming. He noted that almost every center he visited was a one story modern building built with HUD Grants or Community Development Block Grants. They were all friendly, very clean and updated. Every single one of them had a pool table. They all had health services available; some had whirlpools as well as exercise rooms and family dining rooms with circular tables. A study found that circular tables attracted more people. Each state was a bit different. Some highlights:

- The suggested voluntary contribution for meals ranged from \$1.00 to \$1.50.
- New Mexico uses a spoke system where each geographic region has one major center that prepares the meals and sends them out to the smaller centers. At one large site it cost \$800,000 to feed 200,000 people. The people delivering the meals are paid, there are no volunteers. There tends to be more funding available in the larger areas.

- None of the sites do fund raising, all the money comes from the Older Americans Act, State or municipal funding.
- All had transportation provided either by their own vehicles or public transportation.
- Most had structured activities and have a good connection with the Area Agencies on Aging in their areas.

### **III. Vermont Senior Center Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Mary Woodruff provided an update on proposals received that will be funded by DAIL in response to two RFPs published to enhance Senior Center capacity.

One RFP was available to senior centers to address the following areas:

- Evidence Based Programming
- Marketing
- Outreach
- Strategic Planning
- Board Development
- Staff Professional Development and Training
- Services to Support Older Adults' Independence

DAIL received over ten proposals. However, some of them were not accepted because they did not meet the minimum criteria required in the RFP. All of the remaining proposals were funded and dealt with marketing or outreach. A list of senior center proposals that were accepted will be listed on the DAIL website. Although up to \$85,000 was available statewide through this RFP, DAIL will be providing \$60,457 in funding which is the total funding requested from approved applicants. The awards for enhancing senior center capacities can be found on the DAIL website at: <http://www.dail.vermont.gov/dail-whats-new/enhancing-senior-center-capacity-awards-announced>

Primarily proposals to do marketing are aimed at attracting more people to senior centers and to increase community awareness about what senior centers are, and/or to seek further funding and sponsorship from within their community. Mary indicated that one reason there was a relatively small number of applicants may have to do with the challenges that senior centers face in even having the ability to write grant applications. When Mary was contacted by senior centers about this issue, she advised them to contact their Agencies on Aging or to look on line for Grant writing assistance.

Some board members raised the concern about the additional challenges senior centers will face due to sequestration. When DAIL issued the RFPs it was known that the sequester might be a possibility, however, nothing was final. It is possible that some of the projects now funded could look at marketing in the context of providing information about how important individual, community and business contributions are to senior centers.

The second RFP was available to applicants (individuals or organizations) to promote the development and provide training and technical assistance to senior centers statewide. The maximum amount available through this RFP is \$15,000. The State is still in the process of reviewing the proposals received and will share the results when they become available.

### **III. National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) Spring Meeting**

Last week Deputy Commissioner Camille George attended the NASUAD Spring meeting. At the meeting there was much discussion about where individual states are in looking at long-term care services supports in newly developing Medicaid managed care environments. Many states are changing and forming new partnerships in anticipation of changes in health care reform. Examples of some changes across the country include:

- Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) contracting with health plan providers to provide navigation and support.
- AAAs stepping away from long-term case management and focusing on Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) functions such as Information, Referral and Assistance (I/R&A), SHIP (a program that provides information and assistance to Medicare beneficiaries) and Options Counseling.
- Realignment of state agencies where some states are going back to focusing solely on aging and other state aging departments joining with other departments providing services to people with disabilities for the first time.

Information was also shared about how states are now using data to measure outcomes and quality of services. There was also a presentation on National Core Indicators (NCI) effort which has existed for many years for developmental services and a component is now being developed for long term services and supports. Vermont will be evaluating this opportunity when it becomes available later this year.

### **IV. Future DAIL Advisory Board Meetings**

The DAIL Advisory Board members clarified what they would like to discuss with regards to the state of various key DAL provider/community partners. Areas to address include financial status, how well various providers are coordinating with the other agencies, what changes have they had to make as a result of financial situation today, what populations they are serving today and how it compares to five (5) years ago and general discussions of successes and challenges experienced by each provider group.

Since there were several discussions last fall regarding developmental services DAIL Advisory Board members start by focusing on the following provider groups, as time permits: Home Health, Nursing Homes, Senior Centers and AAA's. They would like to hear from a representative from each group as well as the State perspective in terms of what information we have.

### **V. Commissioner Update:**

**State Budget:** The Governor's recommended budget passed out of the House with the DAIL portion as it was introduced with some additional language. The Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI), Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and the Division of Licensing and Protection (DLP) was passed as written. Choices for Care (CFC) and Developmental Services (DS) are the main drivers of DAIL budget discussions and passed as written with additional language.

In terms of CFC, the current language requires that if there are funds left over DAIL will ask its Advisory Board and stakeholders how they think funds should be spent and then report it to the legislative Health Access Oversight Committee in the summer. Commissioner Wehry believes this approach may be a template going forward.

The DS budget came up with \$3,000,000 in the State Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Adjustment but then proposed a down of \$2,500,000 in the FY14 budget in anticipation of being able to save money by bending the curve in our spending in DS. Commissioner Wehry noted that this has become very challenging because the State has been accused of really meaning “cuts” when it is called a “policy change.” In testimony Commissioner Wehry stated that the only way to guarantee not spending \$2.5 million is to take it out and that’s what has been done in the past and is called a rescission. There is language in our State System of Care Plan that states DAIL may direct developmental services agencies what to do or be flexible and their obligation is to meet with every individual whose budget may be impacted and ask them what do you think we ought to do. Commissioner Wehry stated that any changes should be made by July 1 not September 1 as proposed since having to wait until September 1 would compact the impact on the people receiving services and agencies alike. Questions and discussion relative to the DS budget proposal continued with those present expressing different opinions. It was agreed that there will be a more detailed follow up conversation with the interested parties after the meeting. The current FY 14 budget proposal includes the creation of a task force to make recommendations to the Joint Fiscal Committee by September, 2013 to manage service needs and provide cost-effective services. Commissioner Wehry stated that any changes be made by July 1 not September 1 as proposed since having to wait until September 1 would compact the impact on the people receiving services and agencies alike.

***Other Legislative Updates:***

H.140 attempts to ***codify*** the CFC program. CFC was created in 2005 in session law. This bill would codify the program and get it into statute and not just in session law. The bill seeks to define “savings” in CFC and establish some parameters for the uses and process for making decisions about any CFC reinvestment funds. Originally the State supported the bill but now opposes it because language has been added that proposes a complicated formula for trying to define savings in the CFC program.

***Realignment within DAIL:*** Plans are underway to realign the Division of Disability and Aging Services (DDAS) into two Divisions: the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS) and a Division of Aging Services (*note: after meeting it was decided this Division will be called the Adult Services Division - ASD*). Commissioner Wehry hopes that having two robust Divisions will allow us to integrate functionally in a different way. DAIL is currently recruiting for a Division Director for the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services. Lora Nielsen will be the Director of the Adult Services Division. Commissioner Wehry reviewed the details of the transition to two divisions, with the goal for the change to be fully effective by July 1, 2013.

Advisory Board members asked what the difference is between the DS Task Force and the DS State Standing Committee. The advisory board previously talked about this last fall when dealing with a looming crisis in DS. The goal of the task force is to examine where we want to be in 20 years from now and how to get there. It was emphasized that we need to think about and recognize that the individuals DAIL served 20 years ago had a different life experience than people do now. We may or may not need to do anything, but we should ask the question.

Three deliverables from DS Task Force will be (if Legislature wants it to):

Incorporate the workgroup that is included in the budget bill and have as a deliverable by September 1<sup>st</sup> recommendations to inform the 2015 budget as to modifications to our delivery system, new initiatives to try and payment forms.

1. Review the process for developing the State System of Care Plan which expires in June 2014,

- providing recommendations by January for any changes.
2. Help to vision a 10 year process (discussed above).

The membership of the task force is not set yet, but will include the Stakeholders, members of the State Standing Committee and members of the Legislature.

**State Innovation Model (SIM) Grant Update:** The State received a \$45,000,000 Grant from the Feds to implement four payment reform ideas as part of overall healthcare reform:

1. Look at novel delivery payments that are bundled payments (like we have now in DS), transitioning from a fee-for-service model to a fully capitated model.
2. Pay for performance model - adds incentives in healthcare to get specific quality outputs.
3. Expansion of the Vermont Blueprint for Health – including from Primary Care to Specialty Care and expansion of the Community Health Teams.
4. Look at the creation of an Accountable Care Organization (ACO) in Medicaid – like we currently have in Medicare.

The request to accept the SIM grant has gone to the legislative Joint Fiscal Office and the net result for DAIL is that it will be getting two SIM positions to keep long term services and support at the table of healthcare reform. This will put DAIL in a good position to make sure DAIL constituents and interests are represented in the broader conversation of health care reform.

**DS System of Care Plan Amendment** - In the Budget Adjustment Act for 2013 DAIL asked for emergency language should the State need to take action in Fiscal Year 2013. In the last four months we have made good progress in bringing spending under control and it does not appear that the State will need to ask for any System of Care Plan amendment. At this point, the State is confident we won't need to use it and therefore didn't put the same language in the SFY 2014 proposed budget.

**Adult Protective Services:** The question was raised regarding the annual APS report with regards to the number of substantiated reports in Rutland and Washington Counties. They were "outstanding in their fields" for the number of reports coming out. The question was posed, "How this will be used and why it actually exists?" Commissioner Wehry explained that last year was still a cleanup year from 2011 crossover time and that there seems to be some artifact from cases that were being closed in accounting for some of that large variance in this year's report. She pointed out that the real evidence we need to know is how many substantiations were upheld. APS is starting to track this information. An action item is to have more information on this at future DAIL Advisory Board meeting.

Commissioner Wehry also reported that the APS caseload per staff is down. She noted that there is the sense by some people that caseloads are down because APS was not opening up cases. However, the evidence is that this is not true and if we look over the last six years the proportion of cases that are opened has been very constant. There is a decrease in reports in 2010 or there might be a slight trend down. However, the number of cases APS is opening remains the same. Because of this, APS is looking to see whether there is a difference staff intake.

In looking at cases involving financial exploitation, Commissioner Wehry reported that there are still a high number of reports and a higher number are substantiated because they are easier and facts are cleaner in terms of being able to prove them.

Commissioner Wehry provided an update on H. 105 that deals with APS reporting. As of this meeting date, the Administrations does not believe it is necessary because it asks the State to do things that it is already

doing.

Division of Licensing and Protection Director Suzanne Leavitt and APS Chief Veda Lyon have just completed a listening tour visiting all the AAAs and encouraged them to contact them as necessary. Out of listening tour two things happened:

1. We learned there is a lot of interest in digging into the definition of “vulnerable adult” and what it means. Some people that participated in the listening tour had different understandings of “vulnerable adult.” Veda has formed a workgroup to specifically look at the vulnerable adult language with an eye to making recommendations for possible legislative changes next year.
2. It was revealed that part of the reason for the litigation came from the belief that APS has a statutory obligation to remove people from their homes. In fact, APS does not have this authority and yet some thought APS did and should be held accountable.

**Observation on DAIL Annual Report** – It was noted by one advisory board member that considering all of the attention on Developmental Services both positive and negative it was surprising that there was very little discussion about it in this report. Perhaps an opportunity for education on this might have been missed.

**Health Care Reform:** There are many changes happening related to health care reform. A lot of people will need to go through the Healthcare Exchange next year to get healthcare insurance. Yesterday an RFP was issued asking for entities to be navigators in helping people who have to go through this process decide which health plan is appropriate for them. Turnaround time on this is three weeks - very short. AAA's are interested in doing this as they already do this in the SHIP program for Medicare part D. This is for an array of people. There are many issues and challenges and the plan is to fund multiple entities.

## **VI. Board Updates:**

Steve Pouliot announced that there is a Technical Fair for People who are visually impaired in So. Burlington on April 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. at the South Burlington High School Both Low/Hi Tech information and Apple products will be highlighted and there will be someone there to explain how to use the products.

May is Older Americans Month – Jim Coutts is working with the legislature to get a proclamation day for Senior Center Organization Day. Beth Stern is also working on getting an Older Americans proclamation day as well. Will Rowe has been working on OAA month for the past few months.

Hal Colson is leaving the Serve Vermont Organization and they will be looking for someone to fill his position.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.